



The New Midlander

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MIDLAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Midland Philatelic Federation will be held in conjunction with WORPEX on May 14th 2016 at noon. (Note the earlier time to the usual AGM time but this is to fit in with the room bookings at WORPEX).

Please ensure that your society is represented at the AGM. Decisions are made at this meeting which impact on all societies in the MPF and without your voice at the meeting you can't really complain later about decisions reached.

At this meeting there will be changes to the MPF committee. Bryan Jones after many years of service to the MPF and Midlands Philately is stepping down from the committee and his position as Chair. Hence there will be changes made and volunteers to join the committee and to help out in a shadow role are always welcome.

WORPEX STAMP FAIR

This will be held on Saturday May 14th from 10.00 am – 3.30 pm at Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Road, Worcester, WR3 8HN. There is limited parking at the venue and also in the surrounding area and those attending are advised to use the Park and Ride facilities which will be signposted. There are good directions to find the venue and the Park and Ride on the WORPEX website as well as a list of the dealers attending (<http://worpex.com/worpex-2016/>).

NINE-SHEET COMPETITION

The Inter-society nine-sheet competition will take place at WORPEX. The entry form was included with the last New Midlander and can be found on the MPF website. The deadline for entries is April 30th. The competition will be pre-judged and the results available at the exhibition.

Solihull Philatelic Society

Coach to York Stamp Fair – Friday 15th July 2016

Solihull Philatelic Society is running a coach trip to York stamp fair picking up at Solihull and Kenilworth. Cost £15.00. Anyone who would like to join should contact John Barker: 0121 744 2580 or by email: johnhbarker@btinternet.com (please note my middle initial 'h' between john and barker in my email address!). Partners are invited and the coach will stop in both the City Centre for Shoppers and Railway Museum as well as at the Racecourse for the real event – the Stamp Fair.

John Barker

THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

This will be held from Thursday July 21st to Sunday July 24th 2016. Many more details including a booking form and the full provisional programme can be found at their website. www.gbcongress.uk . The venue is the Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridgeshire CB23 6BW.

The Host Society is Cambridgeshire and the Congress theme is 'Islands' and provisional displays include Cambridge Postal History, College Stamps & Their Suppression by the Post Office, Newfoundland, South Georgia Fiji (by the MPF's own Bryan Jones), When Gibraltar was an Island.



Stafford Stamp Show

Summer Fair Friday 17th June 2016 - Saturday 18th June 2016
Winter Fair Friday 4th November 2016 - Saturday 5th November 2016
In both cases, doors open Friday 10 am – 5 pm and Saturday 10 am – 4 pm.

FREE ADMISSION

50 plus National & International Dealers
Dealers Attending & Room Plan will be available closer to date.

The show is held at the Staffordshire County Showground, which is situated on the A518 Stafford to Uttoxeter Road.

**This fair is organised by John Rice who also holds regular fairs around the Midlands in Sutton Coldfield, Kenilworth and Lichfield and occasionally in Loughborough. More details can be found on his website <http://jrs-stamp-shows.co.uk>
Please support these fairs.**

Leamington & Warwick Philatelic Society



Over recent meetings, we have covered the usual wide range of topics and speakers. Alan Godfrey showed early and later stamps from the Falklands, including early cork cancellers before proper postmarkers were available. A visit from members of Redditch Philatelic Society brought some remarkable mail from the Civil War, Chilean airmails, “What the Victorians did for us”, and the history of Midland Red and Stratford Blue bus parcel stamps. Clive Jones’s covers from Travelling Post Offices (TPOs) took us on a rail journey from 1838 to 2004: one letter posted in Frankfurt on Christmas Day was delivered (via TPO) to Bath on Boxing Day - a feat hardly imaginable in modern posts; in fact it had a cachet “do not deliver before 7.30 am”, presumably so as to let the recipients have a lie-in after a heavy

Christmas dinner. Another marvellous range of early covers came from Nick Bridgwater’s “Taunton Postal History”.

At the end of March, we received a visit from Hinckley Philatelic Society. As always they brought some marvellous displays. The next meeting was an alphabet evening with “XYZ”, at which members showed their usual ingenuity. Our penultimate meeting



for the season comprised ‘Toby Mottram Entertains’. His first half was a specialised display of the early British issues, explaining why the changes in colour and perforation took place, with some very rare items, from examples of all the 1d black plates right through to the end of the “stars” issues. Toby followed this with an extensive display of postal history from Royal Leamington Spa, which included a

very rare “skeleton” datestamp made up for temporary use. Leamington started out as a “Penny Post” subsidiary to Warwick, but as the town grew it became a post town in its own right.

John Gledhill

South Midlands Stamp Club



At its monthly afternoon meetings, we have recently covered ‘The 70s’, which ranged through both early and late issues of Malta, St Vincent, Chile and even Fujeira. The letters ‘O, P, and Q’ brought novelty postcards, ABPS Philatelic Congress, and Terry Pratchett cinderellas. ‘My other collection’ brought a surprising range of interests, not least a frame full of airline ‘sick-bags’, all guaranteed unused; apparently collecting these is a valid part of the history of airlines, with the world record collection holding 6,290 different examples. Two visiting speakers gave us outstanding presentations of specialist collections: Ken Flint with ‘Canadian Military Mail’, and John Beech with ‘Austro-Hungarian Navy’, the latter including an almost complete collection of picture postcards of all the warships in the years when Austro-Hungarian borders stretched to the Mediterranean Sea.

John Gledhill

Midland (GB) Postal History Society

The programme and meeting places for the Society meetings in 2016 – 2017 have been announced. These will appear again in a later issue of the New Midlander.

10 th September 2016	Kingston St Michael's	Claire Scott "Death by Post"
29 th October 2016	Arden School Solihull	One Board Displays "Parcel Post"
12 th November 2016	Warwick and Warwick	Richard Farman "Large Items"
3 rd December 2016	Burton on Trent	Annual Dinner
14 th January 2017	St Germain's Church	Birmingham One Board Displays "Instructional Markings"
18 th February 2017	Black Country Museum	One Board Displays "Non 1d Inland Letter Rates 1840-1897"
11 th March 2017	Great Central Railway Loughborough	Brian Atkins "Shropshire"
22 nd April	St Germain's Church Birmingham	AGM and Auction

Mel Matthews

Solihull Stamp and Postcard Society

A recent night's meeting was a 'gem'. Edward Klempka, who has given us displays in the past on the Penny Black and Mulreadies amongst other subjects, gave a display of proofs and essays of registered envelopes, post cards, letter cards, newspaper wrappers and the 'Coronation' airletter. Much of this material had not been displayed previously. The second part showed the experimental trials of the 'Dollis Hill' phosphors. During the 60s and early 70s, extensive trials were carried out to test machinery for sorting mail using phosphor ink not only as the 'phosphor bands' as we know them today, but phosphor incorporated into handmade paper which was then used to print Wilding 2d browns which were then applied to mail and sent through the post to assess how the facing machinery would treat them. For GB collectors, there was a multitude of all sorts of varieties of the 2d and 3d Wildings on different papers, some un-perforated and with 'phosphors' in different forms of application to those printed for 'normal' use. Edward made a 300 mile round trip to give this display.

John Barker

Stratford upon Avon Philatelic Society

Towards the end of 2015, we saw a gem of a display by John Mayne on 'Togo, the German Period', which totally belied his introductory description of it as "just a gap on the map between Gold Coast and Dahomey" until German felt a desire to have an overseas empire. The approach of the postman was transmitted from village to village by drum messages. At the following meeting, Dave Williams, part of a visiting team from Cheltenham, talked us through the 'unfathomable rates' of Hungary during mid-century posts. Alan Godfrey later took us on a chilly November walk 'To the Ends of

the Earth', polar exploration mail, stamps, picture postcards, maps and valiant but fated explorers. In between these meetings we had members' displays on 'The Letter I',



which was predictably stretched to include 'isthmus', 'interesting stamps', and 'ink-jet postmarks'; and, to warm us up in December, some 'Summer Memories', delightfully including New Zealand Christmas stamps, December being antipodean summer! The New Year brought a 'Brains Trust', 'Red, White & Blue', and Ray

Sheppard's 'History of the Olympics'.

John Gledhill

Hinckley and District Philatelic Society

On January 12th, members presented up to two frames on any subject. Steve Barratt showed mint and used stamps from 1854 – 1859 which was followed by an entertaining display by Bob Storer on Obsolete Postal Areas of Africa starting with Southern Nigeria. British Protectorate of Oil Rivers, German Togoland, German Cameroun, and German East Africa. Roger Simmons showed censor marks used by the Army Postal Service, used examples of the 2003 Fruit and Vegetable Fun stamps of Great Britain which showed the ingenuity of people in making faces on the stamps and early examples of slogans applied to mail. Robert King showed one item of mail – a registered letter sent from West Wimbledon to Japan via Siberia. The 7d registration rate was made up of stamps from Edward VII, George V and George VI. Roger Bucknall showed an extensive collection of Benham silks including the scarce 1980 Birds and Railway issues. Richard Flemming showed an array of letters and postcards sent from the barracks situated on Salisbury Plain. There was an example of mail sent by a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to London. Senior staff and operations had been moved to London at this time due to an outbreak of meningitis at the camp. To conclude the evening, Steve Barratt returned to show items from his Southern Rhodesia, Aden, Basutoland, Canada, and Sierra Leone collections.

On February 9th, members showed items associated with the Letter 'P'. Bill Shepherd showed two frames on 'Philately' including several items from the German campaign in Greece during World War II. Roger Holmes showed Portraits and Photographs of Hitler's last years, and National Parks. Richard Flemming showed Wiltshire Penny Post with items from Devizes, Salisbury, Chippenham, Pewsey, Marlborough and Melksham. Penny Post systems allowed local mail to travel locally for 1d instead of the usual rate dependent upon mileage. Bob Storer provide a puzzle, and Anthony

Bishop three frames on A Plethora of 'Ps'. Joan Shelton had an interesting combination of Popes and Pushkin with the interesting set of Vatican issues showing all the popes from 1200 to 2000. John Adcock provide nine sheets of Polish stamps and Ian Varey a display of the Plantagenet Kings of England. Finally Derek Moseley showed items associated with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Richard Flemming

Changes to MPF handbook and Speakers Lists

Note a change of Secretary for Telford Stamp and Card Club.

Bette Chambers retired at their recent AGM and the new Secretary is: Roy Jukes, 47 Birchmore, Brookside, Telford, Shrops. TF3 1TQ.

Tel: 01952-371954. E-mail: classic-stamps-of-ironbridge@telstamps.plus.com.

Roy is a local dealer as well as a collector.

Peter Pugh of Rugby Philatelic Society is offering two new displays in addition to those in the Speakers list.

Another Bloody Railway Part 1 1903 – 1917

Another Bloody Railway Part 2 1918 – 1941

Both are talks based on the transmission of British Mail on the Siberian Railway, especially through the turbulent years associated with the Russian revolution and the World Wars.

Contact Peter via telephone 01788816115 or email: rosemary@pugh2406.fsnet.co.uk

Many other speakers (including the editor Ken Flint and Michael Chapling) offer different talks to those in the MPF list – check the Society Programme listings in the New Midlander to get an idea of the variety of talks available.

The **Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fairs** are held quarterly on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October each year and are held in the Belmont Community Hall, adjacent to the Tan Bank Car Park in Wellington Centre, Telford, TF1 1LU. The fairs are organised by Telford Philatelic Society. Entry is free and the fairs are open from 10 am to 3 pm. Free parking is adjacent to the hall. Both train and bus stations are nearby for those who cannot travel by car.

If there are any dealers out there who wish to have a table at this well-attended fair then contact Bob Hemmings (01694-771880 or bob@kenleycommon.plus.com).

Next Fairs

2016 – July 9th and October 8th

BIRMINGHAM POSTCARD FAIR

Simon Collyer has agreed a new location to replace the stamp, postcard and cigarette card fair that was held at the Nautical Club and briefly last year at the Irish Centre in Digbeth.

It will be at the Walker Memorial Hall on Ampton Road, Edgbaston, B15 2UJ on the last Wednesday of every month from March to November. The dates for this year are therefore 25th May, 29th June, 27th July, 31st August, 28th September, 26th October, and 30th November.

The fair is open between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm. There is free admission, a free car park and free tea and coffee.

Buses number 98 and 99 stop close by. For the more energetic, it is located half way between the Five Ways and University train stations.

Simon is a well-known organiser of stamp and postcard fairs in the Midlands under the name AMP Fairs (especially the twice yearly show at the Motorcycle Museum) and deserves our support at this new venue.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Simon on 0123820151.

Rugby Stamp Fair

Simon Hemmings of Midland Philatelics Ltd based in Rugby will still be holding his bi-monthly Thursday stamp fair in Rugby during 2016.

The fair is held at Rogers Hall, Deering Road, Hillmorton CV21 4EN
The event will open at 9.30 am and close at 3.00 pm.

**The next dates are in 2016,
June 2nd, August 11th and October 6th**

**THERE WILL ALSO BE A SUNDAY FAIR HELD AT
THE BENN HALL, RUGBY CV21 2LN
ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2016 FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM.**

Free parking, Free admission and Refreshments available at all fairs.

SOCIETY PROGRAMMES

May 3 rd	Canada	Peter White	South Birmingham
May 3 rd	Batty about Sweden	Malcolm Batty	Banbury
May 3 rd	President's Night	David Botterill	Coventry
May 3 rd	The Congo	Gerald Marriner	Streetly (morning)
May 4 th	Annual General Meeting Chairman's Evening	Members John Gledhill	Leamington
May 4 th	German Togo	John Mayne	Hereford
May 4 th	Foirst Flight Covers	J Roe	Stroud
May 5 th	Northampton Post Card Club Entertain		Northampton
May 5 th	Streetly Philatelic Society Entertain		Redditch
May 6 th	Phoenix Competitions		Derby / Nottinghamshire
May 9 th	Annual General Meeting	Members	Evesham
May 9 th	A Philatelic Farrago	Roy Summers	Telford
May 10 th	David Scott Cup - Thematics	Members	South Birmingham
May 10 th	Competition Awards Presentation and Social	Members	Hinckley
May 10 th	Annual General Meeting	Members	Streetly
May 10 th	Annual General Meeting	Members	Leicester
May 11 th	One Board Display - Birmingham Related	Members	Birmingham
May 11 th	Annual General Meeting and Bring and Buy	Members	Shropshire
May 11 th	Annual General Meeting and One-sheet Competition	Members	Stratford
May 11 th	Annual General Meeting and Auction	Members	Matlock
May 12 th	Wagons West	John Edwards	Derby
May 12 th	Visit from Redhill Philatelic Society		Loughborough
May 12 th	Annual General Meeting and Table Top Sale	Members	Wombourne
May 12 th	Annual General Meeting – Competition Night	Members	Worcester
May 12 th	Postcards or Ephemera	Members	Radcliffe on Trent
May 14 th	Own Choice	Members	Midland Postal History Society
May 16 th	The Pacific Ocean	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
May 17 th	Informal Meeting	Members	Stafford
May 17 th	Quiz Evening	Ian Samuel	South Birmingham
May 17 th	Annual General Meeting and Bourse	Members	Coventry
May 18 th	Annual General Meeting and Auction	Members	Stroud
May 19 th	Sport on Stamps	Michael Chapling	Coleshill
May 19 th	Three-Sheet Competition	Members	Redditch
May 20 th	16-sheet Competition	Members	Nottinghamshire
May 24 th	Jackson Legacy (Part 2)	Roy Holt	South Birmingham
May 24 th	Annual General Meeting and Display on Anything but Philately	Members	Banbury
May 25 th	Annual General Meeting	Members	Hinckley
May 26 th	Visit from The British West Indies Study Circle		Loughborough
May 26 th	Ask the Dealer / Auctioneer	Andrew McGavin	Worcester
May 26 th	TBA		Radcliffe on Trent

June 1 st	Presidents Evening – The Geud Man of Ballangigh		Birmingham
June 1 st	Annual General Meeting, Competitions and Bourse	Members	Hereford
June 2 nd	Annual General Meeting and Buffet	Members	Northampton
June 2 nd	The Ottoman Empire and Albania	Nick Bridgwater	Redditch
June 3 rd	Victorian Great Britain	Dennis Boot	Nottinghamshire
June 7 th	Auction	Members	South Birmingham
June 7 th	Informal Meeting	Members	Members
June 9 th	Committee Entertain		Derby
June 9 th	An Evening With Colin Searle	Colin Searle	Loughborough
June 9 th	Aspects of GB Registered Mail	Steve Harrison	Radcliffe on Trent
June 13 th	An Introduction to Cinderellas	Don Millington	Telford
June 14 th	Members Evening	Members	South Birmingham
June 14 th	Mail between Shropshire & the Far East	Brian Atkins	Leicester
June 15 th	Members' Bourse	Members	Birmingham
June 16 th	Competitions	Members	Coleshill
June 16 th	Chairman's Evening		Redditch
June 20 th	Flowers and Plants	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
June 21 st	British Perfins	David Gough	South Birmingham
June 21 st	Informal Meeting	Members	Hinckley
June 21 st	Informal Meeting	Members	Stafford
June 23 rd	President's Cup and One Sheet Competitions	Members	Loughborough
June 28 th	An Evening with Carlos Bryant	Carlos Bryant	South Birmingham
July 1 st	South Atlantic Islands – Part 4	Alan Squires	Nottinghamshire
July 5 th	Informal Meeting	Members	Hinckley
July 5 th	Postal History and Postcards of Buxton	Ken Flint	Burton on Trent
July 6 th	One Board Display - Letters A, B and C	Members	Birmingham
July 6 th	Members Displays 9-sheets	Members	Hereford
July 12 th	Letters 'H', 'I' and 'J'	Members	Leicester
July 14 th	Indian Army during WW2	Michael Sivers	Derby
July 14 th	TBA		Radcliffe on Trent
July 18 th	Cats and Dogs	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
August 3 rd	India, the De La Rue Years	Eric Winter	Birmingham
August 5 th	Eastern Europe	Members	Nottinghamshire
August 9 th	An Evening with Mike Jackson	Mike Jackson	Leicester
August 11 th	Annual General Meeting and Bring and Buy	Members	Derby
August 11 th	Anything but stamps	Members	Radcliffe on Trent
August 15 th	Letters 'Q', 'R' and 'S'	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
August 31 st	Charity Auction		Birmingham